

Message Text

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41

ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EB-11 COME-00 AGR-20 TRSE-00 OMB-01

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10

PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20 USIA-15 ACDA-19

IO-14 AID-20 DRC-01 /182 W

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R 231429Z NOV 73

FM AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8957

INFO AMEMBASSY PORT LOUIS

USUN NY 882

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, ETRD, SF, MP

SUBJ: SOUTH AFRICA RESUMES IMPORTING TEA FROM MAURITIUS

1. FOLLOWING STRONG ATTACKS MADE AGAINST SOUTH AFRICA BY MAURITIAN UN AMBASSADOR RAMPHUL IN UNGA LAST MONTH, SOUTH AFRICA STOPPED BUYING TEA FROM MAURITIUS. HOWEVER, SAG DEPARTMENT OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS ANNOUNCED NOVEMBER 22 THAT IMPORTATION OF TEA HAS BEEN RESUMED.

2. SAG DECISION CAME AFTER GOM HAD SWALLOWED ITS PRIDE AND ASSURED SAG THAT RAMPHUL'S ROLE IN ATTEMPTING TO STOP SA FONMIN MULLER FROM ADDRESSING GENERAL ASSEMBLY HAD IN NO WAY REPRESENTED GOM POLICY. ACCORDING DFA STATEMENT, MAURITIAN PRIME MINISTER RAMGOOLAM AND FOREIGN MINISTER DUVAL HAD EXPLAINED TO SAG THAT RAMPHUL THEIR EXPLANATIONS WERE CONVEYED BY GOM MISSION TO SOUTH AFRICA LED BY MINCOMMERCE AND INDUSTRIES MARCHAND. SAG WAS ASSURED MAURITIUS "DID NOT SEEK TO BECOME INVOLVED IN MOVES AGAINST SOUTH AFRICA". DFA STATEMENT SAID THAT DUVAL INFORMED SAG THAT AMBASSADOR

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RAMPHUL WAS BEING RECALLED FOR CONSULTATIONS.

3. COMMENT: GOM'S ASSURANCES TO SAG UNDERSCORE IMPORTANCE TO NAURITIUS OF ITS TEA SALES TO SOUTH AFRICA. DFA STATEMENT NOTES THAT IN PRESS INTERVIEW OCTOBER 26 DUVAL HAD STRESSED THAT ECONOMIC INTERESTS OF MAURITIUS WERE AN IMPORTANT FACTOR INFLUENCING ITS RELATIONS WITH SOUTH AFRICA.
HURD

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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Concepts: TEA, IMPORT CONTROLS, FOREIGN POLICY POSITION
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Draft Date: 23 NOV 1973
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Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
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Disposition Authority: golinofr
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Drafter: n/a
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Executive Order: N/A
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Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
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30 JUN 2005

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